

# **Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project**

## **Wetlands Managers Group Report May 18, 2001**

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### **2001-2002 Work Plan**

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#### **Summary of Recommended Actions**

- Adopt 2001-2002 Work Plan

#### **2001-2002 Work Plan**

The Wetlands Managers Group (WMG) has selected a list of 49 projects that it recommends the Board adopt as the Wetlands Recovery Project 2001-2002 Work Plan (see Attachments 1-3). This includes 15 acquisitions, 16 restoration projects, 16 planning projects, and 2 program-level projects (the Small Grants Program and WRP technical assistance). The Work Plan projects are distributed throughout the five counties (see Attachment 2).

The 2001-2002 Work Plan includes a recommendation by the WMG that the Recovery Project create a new Small Grants Program. The Small Grants Program would provide up to \$30,000 for restoration projects with a significant education or community involvement effort. The program will be managed through the nonprofit organization Environment Now. The project selection committee for the Small Grants Program includes a representative from the WMG, each county task force, and Environment Now.

The 2001-2002 Work Plan projects were selected through an extensive evaluation process that involved opportunities for public input and comment. The process included the following steps:

1. **Request for Project Proposals** – The WRP sent out a Request for Project proposals to over 800 people on its email contact list and posted the RFP on its website. A total of 56 proposals were received, including 16 proposals for the small grants program. In addition, several projects being pursued by the Coastal Conservancy or other partner agencies were submitted for review.
2. **Regional Meetings** – The WMG and the County Task Forces hosted regional meetings in Encinitas, Carpinteria, and Long Beach to allow people to present their project proposals directly to the WMG. Approximately 120 people in total attended the regional meetings.
3. **Project Evaluation and Selection** – The WMG, along with a representative from each of the county task forces, evaluated over 60 projects based on the WRP's adopted project selection criteria. Small grants proposals were reviewed by a separate committee formed by the WMG that included a representative from each of the task forces and Environment Now – the program's proposed administrator. 29 projects were selected for the draft 2001-2002 Work

Plan and 9 were chosen for the small grants program. These were added to the ongoing projects already on the Work Plan. Projects that were not selected for the Work Plan, but meet the general definition of wetlands acquisition, restoration, or enhancement, were added to project database for future consideration.

4. **Public Comment on Draft Work Plan** – In April, proposed Work Plan was emailed for review and comment to approximately 940 people on the WRP's email list.

Additional information on the draft 2000-2001 Work Plan is attached, including:

- Summary of expected costs and projected funding sources for each project (Attachment 1)
- Summary of projects by type and location (Attachment 2)
- Project Descriptions (Attachment 3)

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The WMG recommends that the Board of Governors adopt the draft 2001-2002 Work Plan, with the goal of implementing as many of the projects as possible (within timing and funding constraints), and with the flexibility to add a project(s) in the event that one should become immediately viable (the Board of Governors will be notified by fax or email).

Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project  
**2001-2002 Work Plan**  
**Estimated Costs and Projected Funding**

Attachment 1

Projects (listed south to north)	Estimated Cost**	SCC-WRP	Other State	Federal	Local	Private
1. Tijuana River Valley Arundo Eradication Project	\$560,000	\$500,000		\$60,000		
2. Goat Canyon Enhancement Project	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000				
3. Otay Mesa Vernal Pools Acquisition	\$4,500,000	\$500,000				
4. Famosa Slough Culvert Extension and Retrofit	\$100,000	\$100,000				
5. Rose Creek Enhancement Plan	\$60,000	\$60,000				
6. Los Penasquitos Hydrology and Sedimentation Study	\$250,000	\$250,000				
7. San Elijo Lagoon Acquisition Program	\$7,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,750,000			\$1,400,000
8. San Elijo Lagoon Non-native Plant Management	\$292,270	\$223,063			\$32,687	\$36,520
9. San Elijo Lagoon Tidal Circulation Program Augmentation	\$700,000	\$700,000				
10. Escondido Creek Restoration - Bumann Site	\$235,510	\$220,770				\$14,740
11. ESD Park Riparian Restoration (Cottonwood Creek)	\$272,500	\$136,250			\$136,250	
12. Buena Vista Creek Acquisition -- Sherman Parcel	\$3,350,000	\$750,000				
13. Wood Canyon Stream Stabilization and Restoration	\$1,500,000	\$300,000				
14. Aliso Creek Dairy Fork Biofiltration Basin	\$430,000	\$215,000			\$215,000	
15. San Joaquin Marsh Enhancement - Phase II	\$75,000	\$75,000				
16. Serrano Creek Stabilization and Restoration	\$2,578,000	\$500,000	\$128,000		\$798,075	
17. Huntington Beach Acquisitions	\$5,000,000	\$2,000,000			\$270,000	
18. Talbert Marsh Tidal Channel Enhancement Design	\$80,000	\$50,000				
19. Hellman Ranch Acquisition (Los Cerritos)	Not Available	\$1,500,000				
20. Bryant Acquisition (Los Cerritos)	Not Available	\$1,000,000				
21. Bixby Ranch Company Acquisition (Los Cerritos)	Confidential	\$14,000,000				
22. Los Cerritos Wetlands Conceptual Restoration Plan	\$500,000	\$500,000				
23. Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project	\$200,000	\$200,000				
24. El Dorado Wetlands Restoration Plan	\$200,000	\$100,000			\$100,000	
25. Coyote Creek Watershed Plan	\$2,000,000	\$100,000		\$1,000,000		
26. Lower Los Angeles River Acquisitions	\$20,000,000	\$2,000,000				

Continued on next page.

\* For some projects, the total of the funding sources may not equal the estimated cost. This indicates that complete funding has not been identified for these projects.

\*\*Total costs are estimates and may change significantly as projects are developed and project descriptions refined.

Last Revised: May 7, 2001

Projects (listed south to north)	Estimated Cost**	SCC-WRP	Other State	Federal	Local	Private
27. Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Habitat Needs Assessment	\$100,000	\$100,000				
28. Big Tujunga Wash Revegetation and Restoration	\$153,680	\$83,000		\$14,200		\$56,480
29. Upper Zuniga Road (Secret Valley) Acquisitions	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$750,000			
30. Cold Creek Riparian Upland Acquisition	\$1,950,000	\$719,000			\$786,000	\$545,000
31. Malibu Lagoon Habitat Enhancement	\$575,000	\$500,000	\$75,000			
32. Upper Malibu Creek Feasibility Study (Rindge Dam)	\$2,000,000	\$500,000	\$535,000	\$750,000	\$100,000	
33. Malibu Lagoon Water Level Control Project	\$1,275,000	\$150,000	\$30,000		\$1,085,000	
34. Malibu Creek Arundo Removal Project	\$358,400	\$189,000	\$33,700	\$57,100	\$54,000	\$24,600
35. Solstice Creek Steelhead Enhancement	\$900,000	\$340,000	\$311,000	\$206,450		
36. Lower Conejo Creek Acquisition	\$1,500,000	\$750,000	\$600,000			
37. Grimes Canyon Stream Restoration Project	\$731,400	\$100,000	\$305,600	\$182,500	\$143,300	
38. Ormond Beach Wetlands Acquisition	\$20,000,000	\$5,000,000				
39. Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration Plan	\$325,000	\$200,000		\$125,000		
40. Santa Clara River Parkway Acquisitions	\$40,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$9,200,000	\$750,000		
41. Ventura River Zellerbach Property Acquisition	\$850,000	\$450,000				
42. Ventura River Arundo Removal Project	\$355,700	\$159,500	\$63,500	\$69,200	\$63,500	
43. Carpinteria Salt Marsh, Basin 1, Final Design	\$50,000	\$50,000				
44. Summerland/Greenwell Preserve Restoration	\$220,000	\$40,000			\$120,000	
45. Goleta Slough Tidal Restoration Study	\$400,000	\$200,000			\$200,000	
46. Ellwood Beach-Santa Barbara Shores Specific Plan	\$349,000	\$160,000	\$99,000		\$90,000	
47. Arroyo Hondo Watershed Acquisition	\$6,176,000	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000		\$350,000	\$1,826,000
48. WRP Technical Assistance	\$400,000	\$400,000				
49. WRP Small Grants Program	\$250,000	\$250,000				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$135,802,460</b>	<b>\$48,570,583</b>	<b>\$16,880,800</b>	<b>\$3,214,450</b>	<b>\$4,543,812</b>	<b>\$3,903,340</b>
<b>Total estimated cost with confidential acquisition costs included:</b>	<b>\$150,000,000</b>					

\* For some projects, the total of the funding sources may not equal the estimated cost. This indicates that complete funding has not been identified for these projects.

\*\*Total costs are estimates and may change significantly as projects are developed and project descriptions refined.

Last Revised: May 7, 2001

## Summary of Work Plan Projects – Type and Location

Project Name	Type of Project			County				
	Acquisitions	Restoration Enhance	Planning	San Diego	Orange	Los Angeles	Ventura	Santa Barbara
1. Goat Canyon Enhancement Project		X		X				
2. Tijuana River Valley Arundo Eradication Project		X	X	X				
3. Otay Mesa Vernal Pools Acquisition	X			X				
4. Famosa Slough Culvert Extension and Retrofit		X		X				
5. Rose Creek Enhancement Plan, Final Designs			X	X				
6. Los Penasquitos Hydrology/Sedimentation Study			X	X				
7. San Elijo Lagoon Non-native Plant Management		X		X				
8. San Elijo Lagoon Acquisition Program	X			X				
9. San Elijo Lagoon Tidal Circulation Program Augmentation		X		X				
10. Escondido Creek Restoration - Bumann Site		X		X				
11. ESD Park Riparian Restoration (Cottonwood Creek)		X		X				
12. Buena Vista Creek Acquisition -- Sherman Parcel	X			X				
13. Wood Canyon Stream Stabilization and Restoration		X			X			
14. Aliso Creek Dairy Fork Biofiltration Basin		X			X			
15. Serrano Creek Stabilization and Restoration		X			X			
16. San Joaquin Marsh Enhancement - Phase II			X		X			
17. Talbert Marsh Tidal Channel Enhancement Design			X		X			
18. Huntington Beach Acquisitions	X				X			
19. Hellman Ranch Acquisition (Los Cerritos)	X				X			
20. Bryant Ranch Acquisition (Los Cerritos)	X					X		
21. Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan			X			X		
22. Bixby Ranch Acquisition (Los Cerritos)	X					X		
23. El Dorado Wetlands Restoration Plan			X			X		
24. Coyote Creek Watershed Plan			X			X		
25. Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project			X			X		
26. Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Habitat Needs Assessment			X			X		
27. Lower Los Angeles River Acquisitions	X					X		

Project Name	Type of Project			County				
	Acquisitions	Restoration Enhance	Planning	San Diego	Orange	Los Angeles	Ventura	Santa Barbara
28. Big Tujunga Wash Revegetation and Restoration		X				X		
29. Upper Zuniga Road (Secret Valley) Acquisitions	X					X		
30. Malibu Lagoon Water Level Control Project		X				X		
31. Malibu Lagoon Habitat Enhancement			X			X		
32. Malibu Creek Arundo Removal Project		X				X		
33. Upper Malibu Creek Feasibility Study (Rindge Dam)			X			X		
34. Cold Creek Riparian Upland Acquisition	X					X		
35. Solstice Creek Steelhead Enhancement		X				X		
36. Lower Conejo Creek Acquisition	X						X	
37. Grimes Canyon Stream Restoration Project		X					X	
38. Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration Plan			X				X	
39. Ormond Beach Wetlands Acquisition	X						X	
40. Santa Clara River Parkway Acquisitions	X						X	
41. Ventura River Zellerbach Property Acquisition	X						X	
42. Ventura River Arundo Removal Project		X					X	
43. Carpinteria Salt Marsh, Basin 1, Final Design			X					X
44. Summerland/Greenwell Preserve Restoration		X						X
45. Goleta Slough Tidal Restoration Study			X					X
46. Ellwood Beach-SB Shores Specific Plan			X					X
47. Arroyo Hondo Acquisition	X							X
48. WRP Small Grants Program	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
49. WRP Technical Assistance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project 2001-2002 Work Plan Projects

### Tijuana River Estuary and Watershed Program

1. Tijuana River Valley Arundo Eradication Project
2. Goat Canyon Enhancement Project

#### Tijuana River Valley Arundo Eradication Project

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Not assigned yet.

Develop a watershed-wide Arundo control plan in the Tijuana River Valley, and implement first phase of Arundo removal. With the support of the public agency landowners, the TRVAEP will eventually restore the entire Tijuana River Valley by treating hundreds of acres of Arundo. The first phase of the project would establish the interagency cooperation and implementation process and would accomplish about 10-15 acres of Arundo removal. The average cost of removal of the most dense Arundo thickets, and essential monitoring and followup is estimated at about \$40,000/acre.

Arundo donax (giant reed) is an invasive non-native plant that has taken over a large portion of the Tijuana River Valley. The proposed eradication project will greatly enhance riparian habitat function and will protect the area from future degradation caused by continued expansion of Arundo. Stands of Arundo provide few resources for wildlife in terms of food and structure for nesting, and alter the hydrology in ways which are detrimental to native species. Arundo is both a serious fire hazard and flood risk. Its tall, thick biomass is flammable and the large amount of Arundo material that washes downstream during flood events can threaten structures and roads along the river because it impedes the flow of water and deposit on the wetlands and beaches of Tijuana Estuary. If nothing is done Arundo will continue to displace native vegetation until only degraded habitat remains. The Tijuana River Valley is designated as critical habitat by the Fish and Wildlife Service for two riparian wetland dependent endangered species: least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). Most of the Tijuana River Valley is now in public ownership of the Fish and Wildlife Service, California Dept. of Parks and Recreation, San Diego County Parks, and the City of San Diego.

Estimated cost:	\$560,000
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**Funding:**

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$500,000
USFWS-Coastal Program Grant	\$60,000

Cost Notes:	Cost estimates are preliminary. USFWS funding would be for a part-time project manager for two years.
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## **Goat Canyon Enhancement Project**

**Local Lead:** Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association  
Mayda Winter, 619-575-0550, swiaprojects@aol.com

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Jim King, 510-286-1015, jking@scc.ca.gov

Construct sediment retention basins along the creek, reconstruct a portion of the historic Goat Canyon Creek stream channel, and restore riparian habitat in the project vicinity. The project will reduce sediment flows to the southern arm of Tijuana Estuary.

Environmental review, permitting, and final design and engineering should be complete by December 2001. Project construction will be restricted from September 15 to March 1 to protect the least Bell's vireo. Project construction is expected to occur from September 2002 to February 15, 2003 and will be administered by California State Parks.

Goat Canyon Creek is the westernmost tributary to the Tijuana River and it flows through the south arm of the estuary. 90% of the Goat Canyon watershed is located in Mexico. The watershed is characterized by steep, highly erodible slopes; rapid development; and concrete-lined stream channels. These conditions contribute to high sediment loads in Goat Canyon Creek which are degrading the downstream estuary.

Estimated cost:	\$6,000,000
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$6,000,000
Cost Notes:	Cost estimates are preliminary.

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## **Otay Mesa Vernal Pools Acquisition**

**Local Lead:** County of San Diego  
Tom Oberbauer, 858-694-3200, toberbpl@co.san-diego.ca.us

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Not assigned yet.

Acquire approximately 170 acres of vernal pool habitat on four parcels on the Otay River mesa. The parcels would eventually be added to the Otay Valley Regional Park and be monitored for biological integrity as part of the Park's management plan. The County of San Diego has already acquired a portion of vernal pool habitat in the northern part of the mesa. The listed vernal pools species recorded for the project area include San Diego button-celery, Little mousetail, Spreading navarretia, California Adder's tongue fern, Otay Mesa Mint and San Diego fairy shrimp. It is estimated that there has been a loss of 94 - 97% of the total number of vernal pools within San Diego County.

Otay Mesa is approximately 15 square miles in area stretching from I-805 on the west to the foothills of Otay Mountain to the east. The mesa stretches south across the international border into Mexico, where vernal pools also exist. The portion of the mesa on which the parcels are located forms a small triangular peninsula that is surrounded on the north and southwest by steep canyons, and the east by a State prison. These features have provided a buffer for the parcels that is atypical of other portions of the mesa.

Estimated cost:	\$4,500,000
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$500,000
Cost Notes:	The County is pursuing additional federal, state and local funding.

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## **Famosa Slough Culvert Extension and Retrofit**

**Local Lead:** City of San Diego

Robin Stribley, 619-525-8230, y8s@sdcity.sannet.gov

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Trish Chapman, 510-286-1015, tchapman@scc.ca.gov

Reactivate an inoperable culvert between Famosa Channel and Famosa Slough to increase the tidal prism in the slough. Famosa Slough and Channel are currently connected by a 48-inch pipe culvert, and twin 4-foot by 6-foot box culverts. A second 48-inch culvert is inoperable because its south end is plugged with concrete, and the north end is buried under West Point Loma Blvd. Restoration of this culvert is the next priority identified in the 1993 Famosa Slough Enhancement Plan. The feasibility study to reactivate the culvert was completed in February 2001.

Reactivation of the culvert will improve tidal circulation in slough. Assuming an average of two additional horizontal feet in tidal inundation around the perimeter of the slough (excluding the northern channel), there will be an increase in wetlands of about 1/6 acre. Other projects identified in the enhancement plan are contingent on implementation of this project.

Estimated cost:	\$100,000
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Funding:

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$100,000
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Cost Notes:	Feasibility study -- \$12,000; Final design and construction estimated at \$88,000
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Two previous projects have been implemented with local and federal funding, totaling approximately \$540,000.

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## Rose Creek Enhancement Plan

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Not assigned yet.

Prepare final design and engineering plans for actions recommended in the Rose Creek Enhancement Plan. Recommended actions include:

1. Excavating saltmarsh channels south of Garnet Avenue Bridge
2. Hydraulic contouring of stream below Mission Bay Drive Bridge
3. Vegetating portions of the riprap and embankment toe above Grand Ave. Bridge
4. Low profile vegetated masonry structures on a portion of the concrete floor in the concrete channel above Mission Bay Drive Bridge
5. Hydraulic constructs of natural materials at southernmost end of concrete channel
6. Plantings of native trees and shrubs above concrete channel walls
7. Enhancement of pool impoundments and perched ponds
8. Removal of non-native trees and shrubs at selected riparian and upland sites
9. Revegetation of disturbed riparian and upland habitat
10. Pathways for scheduled maintenance and clean up, etc.
11. Viewing areas for interpretive activities and children's ecology education programs

The San Diego RWQCB included removal of concrete from lower Rose Creek as a high priority within the Federal fiscal year 2000 and 2001 requests for proposals for Clean Water Act Section 319(h) nonpoint source grants. Removal of hardscape will contribute to an increase in brackish water habitat and improve water purification functions.

Project partners include the City of San Diego, San Diego RWQCB, and the Nature School.

Estimated cost:	\$60,000
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Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$60,000

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## Los Peñasquitos Hydrology and Sedimentation

**Local Lead:** Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation

Mike Hastings, 858-551-8932, mikehastings101@yahoo.com

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Jack Liebster, 510-286-1015, jliebster@scc.ca.gov

Prepare a hydrology and sedimentation study for the Los Peñasquitos Watershed and Lagoon system to characterize the sources and amounts of increased sediment loads and freshwater flows into the lagoon. Increased sedimentation is primarily a result of extensive urbanization and industrial development in the western portion of the watershed. This study will provide a basis for the development of an updated Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Enhancement Program. The study will organize existing information from all sources, including current water quality and flow monitoring data related to development in the watershed as well as within the lagoon itself. It will evaluate current measures required or planned to control sedimentation and excess flows, identify data gaps, collect additional information needed and suggest alternatives for future restoration and enhancement efforts in the lagoon and watershed.

Estimated cost:	\$250,000
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Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$250,000

Cost Notes:	Some funding may also be available from in-lieu mitigation fund.
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## San Elijo Lagoon Enhancement Program

1. San Elijo Lagoon Acquisition Program
2. San Elijo Lagoon Non-native Plant Management
3. San Elijo Lagoon Tidal Circulation Program Augmentation

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### San Elijo Lagoon Acquisition Program

**Local Lead:** San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy

Doug Gibson, 760-436-3944, dgibson@sanelijo.org

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Trish Chapman, 510-286-1015, tchapman@scc.ca.gov

Acquire up to 100 acres of property along the margins of San Elijo Lagoon. Several properties have been identified as high priorities for addition to the San Elijo Lagoon Reserve. These parcels would provide riparian habitat and upland buffers. Some parcels have opportunities for constructing polishing wetlands to improve the quality of water entering the lagoon. Property would be held by either the County or the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy. Approximately 32 acres have already been acquired by the Lagoon Conservancy for \$1.4 million.

Potential parcels include an 18.9 acre parcel near the intersection of Manchester Avenue and El Camino Real. The property includes a portion of the seasonally intermittent Lux Creek and provides an opportunity for creating a freshwater polishing wetland. Acquisition costs are estimated at \$2.1 million. The property would be acquired by the County of San Diego. \$1.75 million has been committed by WCB. Another \$500,000 is needed to complete the acquisition and prepare a restoration plan.

Estimated cost:	\$7,000,000
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$2,000,000
Wildlife Conservation Board	\$1,750,000
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy - Ford Foundation	\$1,400,000

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### San Elijo Lagoon Non-native Plant Management

**Local Lead:** San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy

Doug Gibson, 760-436-3944, dgibson@sanelijo.org

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Trish Chapman, 510-286-1015, tchapman@scc.ca.gov

Remove targeted non-native species from approximately 40 acres around San Elijo Lagoon. Twelve plant species will be targeted, including: *Arundo*, *Carpobrotus edulis*, *Foeniculum vulgare*, acacia, and eucalyptus. Mechanical, biological, and chemical methods will be used to remove exotic species. This project is identified in the San Elijo Lagoon Action Plan as one of the next steps for the enhancement of the lagoon, and would build off the initial exotics removal project funded by the WRP in 2000. The project will map the distribution of the problem species, prioritize species for treatment, develop an integrated strategy for removal, and implement the removal/management project. The project also includes a five year maintenance period and surveys of the lagoon for *Caulerpa taxifolia*.

Estimated cost:	\$292,270
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$223,063
County of San Diego - in-kind	\$32,687
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy - in kind	\$36,520

## San Elijo Lagoon Tidal Circulation Program

**Local Lead:** San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy

Doug Gibson, 760-436-3944, dgibson@sanelijo.org

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Trish Chapman, 510-286-1015, tchapman@scc.ca.gov

Augment the San Elijo Lagoon Tidal Circulation endowment to ensure that the lagoon inlet remains open all year. In 1999, the Wetlands Recovery Project provided \$1 million to help establish an endowment to fund ongoing removal of sand and cobble from the mouth of San Elijo Lagoon. The endowment fund was a low-cost, nonstructural alternative for maintaining tidal circulation within the lagoon. After reviewing the first two years performance, the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy has lowered projections of interest generated by the endowment, and increased the projected number of maintenance operations needed to keep the inlet open. For this reason, an augmentation to the endowment is needed to ensure an open ocean inlet. This project would still be substantially less expensive than the \$40 million structural alternative.

The first year of monitoring has shown significant improvements in water quality, and diversity and abundance of fish and invertebrates in the lagoon as a result of maintaining a continuous tidal connection.

Estimated cost:	\$700,000
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$700,000

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## Escondido Creek Restoration - Bumann Site

**Local Lead:** Escondido Creek Conservancy

Leonard Wittwer, 760-603-7283, Leonard@Invitrogen.com

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Not assigned yet.

Remove invasive species and revegetate approximately 1.6 acres along 750 feet of Escondido Creek, a tributary to San Elijo Lagoon. A population of southwestern pond turtles inhabit the site. The project site is heavily infested with many exotic species, most notably *Arundo donax*. Other weedy, invasive species found within and/or adjacent to the riparian areas are eucalyptus trees, Canary Island date palm, fan palm, fennel and cocklebur. The project entails the planning, permitting, implementation and monitoring for the removal of invasive exotic plant species.

Estimated cost:	\$235,510
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$220,770
Escondido Creek Conservancy	\$14,740
Cost Notes:	Costs estimates are preliminary.

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## **ESD Park Riparian Restoration (Cottonwood Creek)**

**Local Lead:** City of Encinitas

David Wigginton, 760-633-2741, dwiggint@ci.encinitas.ca.us

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Not assigned yet.

Recreate portions of riparian stream corridor on Cottonwood and Moonlight Creeks, in northern San Diego County. The project would be located on a 18.9 acre park in the City of Encinitas. Approximately half of the park would be used for habitat restoration and passive recreation. The project involves daylighting a portion of Cottonwood Creek and vegetating Cottonwood and Moonlight Creeks with riparian species. The project will recreate approximately 2.4 acres of riparian habitat along 1150 feet of stream corridor. High storm flows would be diverted into the existing stormwater system to protect the restored corridor. The project is expected to improve water quality of low-flows in the creek. The project provides excellent opportunities for education about water quality issues, watershed protection, and riparian systems.

Estimated cost:	\$272,500
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Funding:

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$136,250
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City of Encinitas	\$136,250
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## **Buena Vista Creek Acquisition -- Sherman Parcel**

**Local Lead:** County of San Diego

Carole Melum, 858-694-3030, cmelumpk@co.san-diego.ca.us

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Jack Liebster, 510-286-1015, jliebster@scc.ca.gov

Acquire approximately 133.8 acres of land along Buena Vista Creek. The property is located approximately 1 mile upstream of Buena Vista Lagoon and includes approximately 70 acres of riparian habitat and 3200 feet of stream corridor. The property is in a proposed Multiple Habitat Conservation Planning area. SANDAG has prepared a Conceptual Area Protection Plan for their MHCP that includes acquisition of this property as a priority.

The subject parcels contains Willow riparian habitat as the primary vegetation type in the creek bottom and disturbed Coastal sage scrub and nonnative grassland habitats in the upland areas.

Estimated cost:	\$3,350,000
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Funding:

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$750,000
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Cost Notes:	County is pursuing funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board (Prop 12), State Water Board (Prop 13), and Department of Fish and Game (HCF). Requested \$2,000,000 from WRP.
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## Wood Canyon Stream Stabilization and Restoration

**Local Lead:** County of Orange  
Kathie Matsuyama, 714-834-6662,  
matsuyamak@pfrd.co.orange.ca.us

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Not assigned yet.

Restore degraded riparian habitat along approximately 3.5 miles of Wood Canyon Creek and its tributaries. Wood Canyon Creek is a tributary to Aliso Creek. The project consists of three main elements: 1) modification of an existing detention basin at the upstream boundary of the Wilderness Park which is contributing to erosion in Wood Canyon; 2) re-routing and revegetating a approximately 2.75 miles of a tributary stream; and 3) removal of non-native species. In addition to habitat benefits, the project will provide water quality benefits by increasing the capability of Wood Canyon Creek to filter non-point source pollution.

Wood Canyon is characterized by its rugged hillsides, oak woodlands, freshwater marshes, riparian corridors and abundant wildlife. The proposed restoration encompasses Wood Canyon Creek and its lower order tributaries from its origin in the northern section of the Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park to its confluence with Aliso Creek.

The impacts of the surrounding communities have increased inputs of urban runoff and stormwater into Wood Canyon over the past thirty years. This project will address restoration of those areas of the canyon that show early detrimental effects from erosion and resulting sediment loading of the downstream areas in Aliso Creek, the inferred loss of macro-invertebrate species that act as biological health measures due to high water temperatures and pollutants such as nutrients and bacteria, and the loss of native riparian plant species that naturally filter stream water from pollutants while shading and cooling the stream.

Estimated cost:	\$1,500,000
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Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$300,000

Cost Notes:	Project is eligible for a 65% COE match, but COE funding has not been secured. 500K was requested from WRP.
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## **Aliso Creek Dairy Fork Biofiltration Basin**

**Local Lead:** County of Orange

Chris Crompton, 714-567-6360, [cromptonc@pfrd.co.orange.ca.us](mailto:cromptonc@pfrd.co.orange.ca.us)

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Not assigned yet.

Create and vegetated water quality treatment system and riparian corridor on a reach of Dairy Fork, a tributary to Aliso Creek. The treatment system will consist of a series of three flow-through biofilters constructed of large rock, which will serve to slow down and filter the water in Dairy Fork. The margins of the low flow channel will be vegetated with emergent marsh vegetation (sedges, rushes, cattails) and a 100 foot wide buffer will be revegetated with native trees and shrubs (willows, alders, cottonwood, mulefat, etc.). The wetland and riparian vegetation may further reduce nutrient, bacteria and sediment loading as well as providing shade to directly reduce temperatures. The project will also create pools of acceptable depth, extent and substrate to provide habitat for the Southwestern Pond Turtle.

The San Diego RWQCB has identified the Aliso Creek watershed as a target watershed for priority water quality enhancement efforts. Of particular concern are the issues of the quality of aquatic and riparian habitat, channel stability and public health. Dairy Fork exhibited elevated fecal coliform concentrations and high temperatures and may be a significant contributor of bacteria to Aliso Creek.

Estimated cost:	\$430,000
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$215,000
County of Orange	\$215,000

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## **San Joaquin Marsh Enhancement - Phase II**

**Local Lead:** University of California, Irvine

Peter Bowler, 949-824-2181, [pabowler@uci.edu](mailto:pabowler@uci.edu)

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Karen Bane, 510-286-1015, [kbane@scc.ca.gov](mailto:kbane@scc.ca.gov)

Revise, as necessary, the conceptual plan for Phase II of the San Joaquin Marsh Enhancement Plan and prepare a supplemental CEQA document. The project area for Phase II is approximately 120 acres of UCI's San Joaquin Freshwater Marsh Reserve, located northeast of the Phase I project area. Phase II involves removal of sediment and vegetation that has built up in the seasonal wetlands areas and extension of the water delivery system constructed in Phase I.

Estimated cost:	\$75,000
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$75,000
Cost Notes:	The preliminary cost estimate for implementation is \$2.5 million. No implementation funding has been identified yet.

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## **Serrano Creek Stabilization and Restoration**

**Local Lead:** County of Orange  
Kathie Matsuyama, 714-834-6662,  
matsuyamak@pfrd.co.orange.ca.us

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Not assigned yet.

Stabilize and restore approximately 1.5 miles of Serrano Creek, a tributary to San Diego Creek and Upper Newport Bay. Serrano Creek has suffered severe bank erosion and channel incision and is a significant source of sediment loading to Upper Newport Bay. The project was developed in the Serrano Creek Conceptual Plan and the COE Feasibility Study for the San Diego Creek Watershed. Project elements include rock stabilization structures; rock slope protection; re-creating with fill material eroded areas of Serrano Creek Park; bendway weirs and rock vanes; toe extensions of existing gunite stream banks, and creek revegetation with native plant species.

Three types of habitat will be planted as part of the project. Riparian habitat will be planted at the base of creek banks and will be dominated by willow species. A transitional zone of plants will be planted between the 10 and 50-year flood plains. Cottonwoods and sycamores will dominate this habitat. Oak woodland will be planted above the 50-year flood plain. Coast Live Oaks will dominate this habitat.

Estimated cost:	\$2,578,000
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**Funding:**

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$500,000
Serrano Creek Conservancy - Urban Strm Rest. Grant	\$128,000
City of Lake Forest	\$243,269
County of Orange	\$554,806

**Cost Notes:** County has also applied for a Prop 13 grant from SWRCB.

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## Huntington Beach Wetlands Program

1. Huntington Beach Acquisitions
2. Talbert Marsh Tidal Channel Enhancement Design

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### Huntington Beach Acquisitions

**Local Lead:** Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy  
Gary Gorman, 714-963-2123, gorman9122@aol.com

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Trish Chapman, 510-286-1015, tchapman@scc.ca.gov

Acquire from willing sellers properties in private ownership within the Huntington Beach Wetlands complex. The Huntington Beach Wetlands encompass 140 acres, only 17 acres of which have been acquired and restored. The remaining acres support degraded, non-tidal salt marsh. Potential properties include:

1. Coastal Magnolia properties. 45-acres divided into a 35-acre and 10-acre parcel divided by Magnolia Street. The parcels are owned by the Estate of Daisy Piccirelli which has declared bankruptcy; however, the title to these two parcels is extremely clouded. The Conservancy prepared an appraisal in 1999, and made an offer to the trustee of the bankruptcy court, contingent on the title being cleared. The trustee is evaluating all of the offers received on the property.
2. West of Magnolia property. 16-acre parcel located between the southern Coastal Magnolia parcel and Pacific Coast Highway. This parcel is owned by the University of California, which received it through a donation. The Conservancy prepared an appraisal for this property in 1999. The Conservancy has had preliminary discussions with U.C. about acquiring the parcel.
3. SCE Property. Approx. 20 acres, surrounding a power plant. Funding for acquisition of this property has been approved by the Conservancy Board. SCC and The Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy are negotiating the purchase agreement with Edison. The property will be owned and managed by the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy. Peter Brand is the Coastal Conservancy manager for this project, 510-286-1015.
4. The Conservancy is also interested in acquiring the 60-acre Mills Land & Water Company parcel if the owners are willing to sell.

Estimated cost:	\$5,000,000
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$2,000,000
County of Orange -- EPA Fine	\$270,000

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## **Talbert Marsh Tidal Channel Enhancement Design**

**Local Lead:** Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy  
Gary Gorman, 714-963-2123, gorman9122@aol.com

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Trish Chapman, 510-286-1015, tchapman@scc.ca.gov

Prepare plan to enhance tidal exchange into the 25-acre Talbert Marsh. Talbert Marsh was restored in 1989 with funding from the Coastal Conservancy. The final monitoring report from this restoration project made several recommendations to improve the viability of the marsh, including removal of accumulated silt from the main flood channel and tidal creeks. The project will include surveying the marsh and developing a current topographic map, comparing this to the original design contours, and determining the amount of material accumulated in the channels. Preliminary sediment testing will be done to determine options for disposal. Plans and specifications for removing the material will be prepared. The project will be coordinated with the County of Orange which maintains the ocean inlet.

Estimated cost: \$80,000

Funding:  
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project \$50,000

Cost Notes: Cost estimate is preliminary.

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## **Los Cerritos Wetlands Program**

1. Hellman Ranch Acquisition (Los Cerritos)
  2. Bryant Acquisition (Los Cerritos)
  3. Bixby Ranch Company Acquisition (Los Cerritos)
  4. Los Cerritos Wetlands Conceptual Restoration Plan
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### **Hellman Ranch Acquisition (Los Cerritos)**

**Local Lead:** Wildlife Conservation Board  
Jim Sarro, 916-445-1082, jsarro@dfg.ca.gov

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Melanie Denninger, 510-286-1015, mdenninger@scc.ca.gov

Acquire approximately 100 acres of the Los Cerritos Wetlands located on the Hellman Ranch property. Under a settlement agreement between the owners, the Coastal Commission, and a group of environmental organizations, the owners must offer this area for sale to a public entity. The landowners prefer that the Wildlife Conservation Board take the lead in negotiating this acquisition.

Acquisition of the Bixby and Bryant Ranches in the Los Cerritos Wetlands are also included in the Work Plan.

Estimated cost: Not available.

Funding:  
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project \$1,500,000

Cost Notes: Cost estimate is very preliminary.

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### **Bryant Acquisition (Los Cerritos)**

**Local Lead:** Trust for Public Land  
Scott Ferguson, 949-494-8034, scott.ferguson@tpl.org

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Melanie Denninger, 510-286-1015, mdenninger@scc.ca.gov

Acquire the 85-acre Bryant property, a portion of the Los Cerritos Wetland. The Port of Long Beach included the Bryant property in its initial restoration planning for the Bixby property.

Estimated cost: Not available.

Funding:  
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project \$1,000,000

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### **Bixby Ranch Company Acquisition (Los Cerritos)**

**Local Lead:** Trust for Public Land  
Scott Ferguson, 949-494-8034, scott.ferguson@tpl.org

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Melanie Denninger, 510-286-1015, mdenninger@scc.ca.gov

Acquire the 181-acre Bixby Ranch portion of the Los Cerritos Wetlands complex. The Coastal Conservancy's option to purchase the property expired in December 2000. Bixby is interested in updating and extending the option.

The Bixby Ranch is located in the City of Long Beach, northwest of the San Gabriel River, near the mouth of the river. Los Cerritos Channel, a tidal channel, crosses through the northern part of the property. Westminster Avenue divides the property into two parcels with about 80% of the land located north of Westminster.

Acquisition of the Hellman and Bryant properties in the Los Cerritos Wetlands are also included in the Work Plan.

Estimated cost: Confidential

Funding:  
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project \$14,000,000

Cost Notes: Acquisition price is confidential. Acquisition costs for the entire Los Cerritos complex is estimated at \$25 million. \$11 million was appropriated to the Conservancy in the FY 2000-2001 budget from general fund for the Los Cerritos Wetlands. Restoration costs have not been estimated.

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### **Los Cerritos Wetlands Conceptual Restoration Plan**

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Melanie Denninger, 510-286-1015, mdenninger@scc.ca.gov

Prepare conceptual restoration plan for the Los Cerritos Wetlands. Project would include an assessment of existing resources, hydrologic analysis, identification of opportunities and constraints, an evaluation of alternatives for expanding tidal circulation and restoring fresh and brackish water wetlands. A recommended conceptual restoration plan will then be prepared. Preparation of the conceptual plan is contingent upon adequate access to property and cooperation of private and public property owners.

Estimated cost: \$500,000

Funding:  
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project \$500,000

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## Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project

**Local Lead:** City of Long Beach

Dennis Eschen, 562-570-3130, [deesche@ci.long-beach.ca.us](mailto:deesche@ci.long-beach.ca.us)

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Chris Kroll, 510-286-1015, [ckroll@scc.ca.gov](mailto:ckroll@scc.ca.gov)

Develop a restoration plan for Colorado Lagoon, a 44-acre saltwater lagoon connected to Alamitos Bay. The project would be undertaken by the City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation Department with input from the Friends of Colorado Lagoon. The lagoon suffers from poor water quality, frequent algal blooms, and low biological diversity. The restoration plan would need to be compatible with current recreational uses and aesthetic values of the lagoon.

The lagoon is part of the historic Los Cerritos Wetlands complex. It is a saltwater body that was created by dredging a mudflat and is connected by tide gate to Alamitos Bay through the Marine Stadium. Five storm drains currently discharge into the lagoon. The tide gate is left open during the winter and is closed at times during the summer to retain enough water in the Lagoon for swimming which is allowed in the west arm of the Lagoon. The Lagoon was once a popular clamming site and still supports a considerable number of cherrystone clams. Marine fish can be found in the lagoon.

The toxic hot spot status of Colorado Lagoon is currently unknown due to scarcity of available data. The Lagoon was listed as an impaired water body in the 1990 Water Quality Assessment due to high coliform levels and excessive tissue levels of pesticides and lead (the latter likely associated with nonpoint source runoff).

Estimated cost:	\$200,000
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Funding:

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$200,000
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## El Dorado Wetlands Restoration Plan

**Local Lead:** City of Long Beach

Dennis Eschen, 562-570-3130, [deesche@ci.long-beach.ca.us](mailto:deesche@ci.long-beach.ca.us)

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Chris Kroll, 510-286-1015, [ckroll@scc.ca.gov](mailto:ckroll@scc.ca.gov)

Prepare a plan to restore up to 20 acres of wetlands at the confluence of the San Gabriel River and Coyote Creek, adjacent to the El Dorado Nature Park. Project site is located south of Willow Street, contiguous with the El Dorado Park Nature Center. The restoration plan will look at several alternatives for developing wetlands at this site, including developing seasonal wetlands with periodic flooding. Potential water sources include the San Gabriel River or an existing lake and creek at the Nature Center. Enhancement plans would include an interpretive program and limited public access, probably limited to the periphery. The City has \$100,000 to do a Master Plan for the Nature Center and the area south of Willow Street.

The City owns approximately 7 acres at this site; the remainder is part of a Southern California Edison right-of-way. The City is discussing use of this right-of-way with SCE. The property is occasionally used for retention of flood waters. It is located approximately 2.5 miles north of the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

Estimated cost:	\$200,000
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Funding:

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$100,000
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City of Long Beach	\$100,000
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**Cost Notes:** The City's funding is for the Nature Center as well as the project area south of Willow.

## Coyote Creek Watershed Plan

**Local Lead:** County of Orange  
Kathie Matsuyama, 714-834-6662,  
matsuyamak@pfrd.co.orange.ca.us

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Not assigned yet.

Prepare Watershed Management Plan for Coyote Creek, a tributary to the San Gabriel River. The project will be done in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers, County of Los Angeles, and several others. WRP funds will be targeted to characterizing wetlands resources in the watershed and identifying potential wetlands enhancement and restoration projects. Other areas of technical study for the 147 square mile watershed will include surveying and mapping, hydrology and water quality, hydraulics, geomorphology and sedimentation, social and economic issues, flooding and erosion damage, recreation analysis, environmental and cultural resources, geotechnical considerations and regulatory requirements.

Existing problems in the Coyote Creek Watershed include: excessive nutrient loading in the San Gabriel River, aquatic life toxicity from stormwater runoff, loss of native habitats and their associated species, introduction of nonnative species, loss of wildlife corridors, erosion and downcutting of streams, and bioaccumulation of toxic compounds in the food web.

Estimated cost:	\$2,000,000
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**Funding:**

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$100,000
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$1,000,000
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**Cost Notes:** The County has also applied for a Prop 13 grant. Several cities and 2 counties will also probably contribute. \$200,000 in WRP funds were requested.

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## Lower Los Angeles River Program

1. Lower Los Angeles River Acquisitions
2. Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Habitat Needs Assessment

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### Lower Los Angeles River Acquisitions

**Local Lead:** City of Long Beach

Dennis Eschen, 562-570-3130, deesche@ci.long-beach.ca.us

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Chris Kroll, 510-286-1015, ckroll@scc.ca.gov

Acquire properties adjacent to the lower Los Angeles River suitable for wetland and riparian restoration projects. Several properties along the lower Los Angeles River have been identified as possible sites for wetland restoration. Negotiations for these sites are in varied stages. Potential sites include:

Edison property: 72 acres. The property is located on the west bank of the river between Del Ammo Blvd. and Artesia Blvds. It is zoned for public access and flood control. Edison is currently marketing the property for commercial development.

Wrigley Heights, North: 15.8 acres. Located east of the river and north of the 405 freeway. The site is adjacent to the Dominguez Gap spreading grounds. Owner appears willing to sell. The City of Long Beach would like to acquire the property. Approximately 9.6 acres would be used for possible recreation, and 6.2 acres for riparian restoration. Estimated cost is \$4,000,000.

Wrigley Heights, South: 24.7 acres. Property is located on the east side of the river between Wardlow Road and the 405 freeway. Site was used for an oil/water separation facility. There is now a horse stable on the property. The City of Long Beach would like to acquire the property for a mixed-used park, including a wetland restoration at the site of the former separation facility. The current owners would be responsible for site clean up. Estimated cost is \$4,000,000.

Southern Pacific Transportation Site: 11 acres. Located adjacent to the Sixth Street Wetlands Restoration site being pursued by the City of Long Beach and the Coastal Conservancy. City would like to acquire property for a mixed use park, including an extension of the Sixth Street wetland restoration. Estimated cost is \$10,000,000.

Estimated cost:	\$20,000,000
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Funding:

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$2,000,000
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**Cost Notes:** Cost estimate is very preliminary and includes more than the wetland restoration areas.

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## Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Habitat Needs Assessment

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Karen Bane, 510-286-1015, [kbane@scc.ca.gov](mailto:kbane@scc.ca.gov)

Prepare a regional guide for habitat restoration in the Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River Basins to guide the creation of an ecologically linked network of open space currently being pursued by several different independent organizations and agencies. The guide would be available to individuals who are planning a restoration or open space project (e.g., citizen groups, city managers, consultants) to learn what habitat types should be targeted given the project's location in the basin and what habitat restoration design goals should be followed to create and maintain functioning and sustainable habitat. This information has not been synthesized in planning documents to date and would be instrumental in maximizing the habitat value of individual open space projects by integrating them with neighboring patches of open space.

The guide would summarize the historic distribution of habitat types (e.g., coastal prairie, lowland riparian, coastal sage scrub, oak woodland) within the basins on a map, provide a description of the habitat types including the plant species and vegetation structure required to support indicator wildlife species. Principles and goals would be established to guide the design and maintenance of needed habitat that is appropriate for the project location and ecologically supports neighboring open space. Tips would be provided for integrating habitat design with other project goals typical for the urban setting such as recreation and public safety.

Assessment would summarize existing wildlife species/communities and their habitats, identify habitat needs that are scarce but could be supported in the Basin (given climate, hydrology, historical existence), and identify sub-regions in which it would be good to concentrate certain habitat types. The assessment may also provide native plant palettes and sources for the identified habitats.

Estimated cost:	\$100,000
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$100,000

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## **Big Tujunga Wash Revegetation and Restoration**

**Local Lead:** California Environmental Project  
Josie Santos, 818-500-1025, cep@restorewild.org

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Not assigned yet.

Enhance approximately 150 acres of the Big Tujunga Wash by removing invasive species, planting native vegetation, and repairing eroding trails. Big Tujunga Wash is a tributary to the Los Angeles River. The project area is located in the flood plain of Big Tujunga Creek and is under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Project implementation began in Fall 2000, but had to be halted when NRCS funding of the Los Angeles Urban Resources Partnership was cut.

Estimated cost:	\$153,680
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$83,000
NRCS -- Los Angeles Urban Resources Partnership	\$14,200
In-Kind	\$45,480
Center for Natural Lands Management	\$6,000
Philip Morris	\$5,000

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## **Upper Zuniga Road (Secret Valley) Acquisitions**

**Local Lead:** Mountains Restoration Trust  
Jo Kitz, 818 346-9675, jkitz@mountainstrust.org

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Jack Liebster, 510-286-1015, jliebster@scc.ca.gov

Acquire approximately 120 acres in the upper Topanga watershed including Zuniga Pond. The Mountains Restoration Trust has opened escrow on three parcels in the project area. The subject property is located near Upper Zuniga Road and includes a manmade pond that supports western pond turtle habitat, a state-listed species of special concern. The site also provides suitable habitat for rock crevice dwelling western mastiff bats and the San Diego Coast Horned Lizard, which are also species of concern. The pond is filled seasonally and supports a well-developed cattail-willow community. The pond is located close to the creek, allowing the turtles to migrate between the creek and the pond.

Estimated cost:	\$1,000,000
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$250,000
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	\$750,000

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## Malibu Creek Lagoon and Watershed Program

1. Cold Creek Riparian Upland Acquisition
2. Malibu Lagoon Habitat Enhancement
3. Upper Malibu Creek Feasibility Study (Rindge Dam)
4. Malibu Lagoon Water Level Control Project
5. Malibu Creek Arundo Removal Project

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### Cold Creek Riparian Upland Acquisition

**Local Lead:** Mountains Restoration Trust  
Jo Kitz, 818 346-9675, jkitz@mountainstrust.org

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Jack Liebster, 510-286-1015, jliebster@scc.ca.gov

Acquire 71.5 acres of upland and riparian habitat along Cold Creek, a tributary to Malibu Creek. Approximately 32 acres of the property are riparian habitat, with the riparian corridor ranging from 100 to 800 feet wide. The proposed acquisition is part of the Cold Creek Restoration Plan, a comprehensive acquisition and enhancement program for the watershed. The project site will become part of the Cold Creek Preserve owned and managed by the Mountains Restoration Trust. Cold Creek is a largely undisturbed creek that historically provided habitat for the Steelhead trout.

Estimated cost:	\$1,950,000
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$719,000
County of Los Angeles	\$786,000
Mountains Restoration Trust -- private donation	\$545,000

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### Malibu Lagoon Habitat Enhancement

**Local Lead:** California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Suzanne Goode, 818-880-0360, sgoode@csp-angeles.com

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Chris Kroll, 510-286-1015, ckroll@scc.ca.gov

Prepare engineering designs to reconfigure tidal channels in two areas of Malibu Lagoon to enhance tidal circulation. The enhancements were recommended in the 1999 Malibu Lagoon enhancement plan prepared by UCLA. The Phase I includes 1.2 acres on the east side of the lagoon. The phase II area includes 16.1 acres on the west side of the lagoon, but could be enlarged by another 11.4 acres if adjacent property is acquired. Channels in both areas have 90 degree turns and blind ends which inhibit tidal circulation. These areas of the lagoon often have low dissolved oxygen levels. The project would also develop an upland island on the east side of the lagoon to provide protected habitat for ground-nesting birds. Enhancements for the Phase II area will be designed to be compatible with possible future expansion of the lagoon.

Estimated cost:	\$575,000
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$500,000
Dept. of Parks and Recreation, in-kind	\$75,000

## Upper Malibu Creek Feasibility Study (Rindge Dam)

**Local Lead:** California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Suzanne Goode, 818-880-0360, sgoode@csp-angeles.com

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Neal Fishman, 510-286-1015, nfishman@scc.ca.gov

Conduct USACOE feasibility study for management of the Upper Malibu Creek watershed. The feasibility study will evaluate options for extensive restoration and enhancement of riparian and aquatic systems above Malibu Lagoon, including possible removal of Rindge Dam. Enhancements for endangered steelhead trout and riparian bird habitat would be a major emphasis of the study. The California Department of Parks and Recreation is the local sponsor for the project.

Estimated cost: \$2,000,000

**Funding:**

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$500,000
Dept. of Parks and Recreation (in-kind)	\$375,000
Dept. of Parks and Recreation (cash)	\$150,000
Regional Water Quality Control Board	\$10,000
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$750,000
Los Angeles County	\$100,000

**Cost Notes:** Cost estimates are preliminary. A 50% non-federal match is needed.

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## Malibu Lagoon Water Level Control Project

**Local Lead:** California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Suzanne Goode, 818-880-0360, sgoode@csp-angeles.com

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Chris Kroll, 510-286-1015, ckroll@scc.ca.gov

Install an inflatable weir to control water levels in Malibu Lagoon at times when the lagoon mouth is closed to tidal action by a sand berm. The goal of the project would be to keep the water level in the lagoon below four feet above msl. Keeping the water level from rising higher would reduce leaching from nearby septic fields and would keep the lagoon's mudflats exposed. The lagoon would remain shut to tidal action until opened naturally by winter storms. When water levels in the closed lagoon exceed 4 feet msl, water would spill out onto the beach over the weir. During the rainy season, the weir would be deflated but would remain in place.

The project has the unanimous approval of the Malibu Lagoon task force.

Estimated cost: \$1,275,000

**Funding:**

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$150,000
Dept. of Parks and Recreation	\$10,000
Regional Water Quality Control Board	\$20,000
County of Los Angeles	\$1,085,000

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## Malibu Creek Arundo Removal Project

**Local Lead:** Mountains Restoration Trust  
Jo Kitz, 818 346-9675, jkitz@mountainstrust.org

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Chris Kroll, 510-286-1015, ckroll@scc.ca.gov

Remove Arundo donax from approximately 5.2 miles of stream corridor along Malibu Creek. The project reach extends from the Malibu Lagoon bridge on Pacific Coast Highway to the bridge on Malibu Canyon / Las Virgenes Road and encompasses approximately 105 acres. The lower Malibu Creek Enhancement Plan prepared by researchers from UCLA identified eradication of Arundo donax (and associated invasive plant species) as the most effective restoration activity among all the biota and habitat management alternatives considered.

The project is a six-year effort to remove Arundo from the project reach. The project will help stop the further invasion of Arundo in Malibu Lagoon and will improve habitat for tidewater goby and steelhead trout.

Estimated cost:	\$358,400
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**Funding:**

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$189,000
Dept. of Parks and Recreation, in-kind	\$33,700
National Park Service	\$57,100
County of Los Angeles	\$54,000
Other	\$4,600
Mountains Restoration Trust	\$20,000

**Cost Notes:** \$169K of the project costs have already been expended as of 3/01.

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## **Solstice Creek Steelhead Enhancement**

**Local Lead:** RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains  
Rosi Dagit, 310-455-7528, oaksrus@aol.com

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Jack Liebster, 510-286-1015, jliebster@scc.ca.gov

Restore steelhead access to approximately 1.5 miles of Solstice Creek by removing barriers to passage. Solstice Creek is located approximately one mile west of Malibu Creek in the Santa Monica Mountains. It has been identified as a primary candidate for recovery of the southern steelhead trout, a federal endangered species. This project involves removing all barriers to steelhead passage by modifying two smooth-bottom culverts through installation of baffles and rocks; replacing or modifying Arizona crossings; removal of a small abandoned dam, and creation of steps along a natural waterfall. The project also includes restoration of streambed and riparian habitat. Initial funding will be used to develop a more detailed project plan and environmental review document.

Some preconstruction activities for this project are currently underway in partnership with National Park Service, the Santa Monica Mountains RCD, National Marine Fisheries Service, Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game, Calif. Dept. of Transportation, California Trout, and other federal, state and local agencies.

Estimated cost: \$900,000

**Funding:**

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project \$340,000

Coastal Conservancy -- Prop 12 \$61,000

Caltrans \$250,000

National Park Service \$206,450

**Cost Notes:** Funds for detailed plan, permits, and final design were approved by SCC in March 2001. Total cost for this phase was \$394K, with \$61K coming from WRP. Estimate 420,000 total for implementation.

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## **Calleguas Creek and Watershed Program**

1. Lower Conejo Creek Acquisition
2. Grimes Canyon Stream Restoration Project

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### **Lower Conejo Creek Acquisition**

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Peter Brand, 510-286-1015, brand@scc.ca.gov

Acquire approximately 80 acres along Conejo Creek for restoration of flood plain and riparian habitat. The property is on Conejo Creek at its confluence with Calleguas Creek. The project will also involve acquiring an agricultural and conservation easement for adjacent farm property. Future restoration activities would include widening the flood plain and allowing the creek to meander more freely in this area. Substantial removal of exotics would also be needed.

Estimated cost: \$1,500,000

**Funding:**

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project \$750,000

Coastal Conservancy-In lieu mitigation fees \$600,000

**Cost Notes:** Cost estimate is preliminary. The Conservancy has approximately \$1.5 million of in-lieu mitigation fees available for acquisition and restoration of this property and other riparian restoration projects in the Calleguas watershed. .

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## Grimes Canyon Stream Restoration Project

**Local Lead:** RCD of Ventura County  
Peggy Rose, 805-386-4685, VenturaCoRCD@aol.com

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Peter Brand, 510-286-1015, brand@scc.ca.gov

Complete stream bank stabilization and revegetation project in Grimes Canyon, a tributary to Calleguas Creek. This project is already underway with funding from the Conservancy and U.S. EPA, and in-kind services from adjacent landowners. Additional funding is needed to complete the project. Grimes Canyon is a major source of sediment input to Calleguas Creek. The project is intended to demonstrate innovative, environmentally-sensitive streambank stabilization methods that can be implemented by farmers throughout the watershed.

Estimated cost:	\$731,400
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**Funding:**

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$100,000
Coastal Conservancy	\$305,600
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	\$182,500
Ventura County RCD and landowners (in-kind)	\$143,300

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## Ormond Beach Wetlands Acquisition

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Peter Brand, 510-286-1015, brand@scc.ca.gov

Acquire in fee or through a conservation easements, the privately owned portions of the Ormond Beach wetlands. Potential properties include:

Edison property. The site is approximately 300 acres on the coast south of the City of Oxnard located between Edison Drive and Arnold Road. It includes approximately 200 acres of wetlands and dunes, and a tank farm that covers 60 acres. Anticipated restoration would include modifications of the site hydrology to reintroduce tidal action and bring back freshwater flows that had formerly drained across the Oxnard Plain to the coastal wetlands.

MWD property. Approximately 309 acres are owned by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and City of Oxnard. MWD tentatively plans to build a pumping plant for a desalination plant on approximately 20 acres of the property. Wetlands could be restored on the unused portion of the property. MWD acquired the property in 1998 for \$10 million.

Adjacent agriculture property. Approximately 300 acres of adjacent agriculture serve as a buffer to the wetlands. Possible actions include purchasing an agricultural easement to ensure that area is not more intensively developed, or acquisition of fee title to restore wetland and grassland habitat.

Estimated cost:	\$20,000,000
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**Funding:**

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$5,000,000
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**Cost Notes:** Cost estimates are very preliminary.

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## Ormond Beach Wetlands Restoration Plan

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Peter Brand, 510-286-1015, brand@scc.ca.gov

Prepare restoration plan for the 900-acre Ormond Beach wetlands area. The restoration plan will evaluate options for: restoring tidal action to portions of the property; restoring historic drainage patterns disrupted by filling and tile drainage systems installed for agricultural use; and recreating a mix of tidal and seasonal wetlands with associated grasslands. The scope of work should be complete in Summer 2001.

Estimated cost:	\$325,000
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**Funding:**

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$200,000
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	\$125,000
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Cost Notes:	Cost estimate is very preliminary
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## Santa Clara River Parkway Acquisitions

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Peter Brand, 510-286-1015, brand@scc.ca.gov

Acquisition of fee title and conservation easements along the lower 15 miles of the Santa Clara River for inclusion in the Santa Clara River Parkway. Approximately 6,000 acres have been mapped out for inclusion within the meander belt of the river with upland connections into South Mountain. Approximately 2,000 of these acres are already in public ownership. The initial acquisition program will focus on the estuary and lower river and then move up. One property has closed and six are in active negotiations. Following acquisition, riparian and floodplain restoration projects would be pursued. Potential acquisitions include:

Coastal Berry property. 218 acres along the south bank of the river, just upstream of Harbor Road. An appraisal has been prepared for this property. This acquisition is expected to be complete by Summer 2001.

North Bank parcels. Approximately 128 acres located on the north bank of the river. A portion of this property is in tax default and the Conservancy may be able to acquire it for the cost of the back taxes. The approximate cost to acquire is \$350,000.

Camp parcels. This 220-acre property extends for approximately one-mile along the north bank of the river, just upstream of Highway 1 and includes approximately 150 acres that can be restored to riparian habitat. The parcel includes rights to dredge sand from the channel. The Coastal Conservancy acquired this property in April 2001 for \$4.7 million, with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy.

Santa Paula Reach -- Acquisition of five properties in this reach is expected in 2001. Together these properties would consolidate five miles and 1200 acres of river in public ownership.

Estimated cost:	\$40,000,000
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**Funding:**

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$3,000,000
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Coastal Conservancy--Prop 12	\$9,200,000
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$750,000
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Cost Notes:	Cost estimate is very preliminary. USFWS money is for Coastal Berry Acquisition.
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## Ventura River Watershed Program

1. Ventura River Zellerbach Property Acquisition
2. Ventura River Arundo Removal Project

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### Ventura River Zellerbach Property Acquisition

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Peter Brand, 510-286-1015, brand@scc.ca.gov

Acquire the 105-acre Zellerbach parcel on the north side of the RV park, located within the river's floodplain. The site historically supported riparian forest dominated by sycamore. This parcel is currently leased for agriculture. Approximately 40-50 acres in the floodplain are not currently farmed. The farmer leases the property and has an option to purchase. The property is listed for sale at \$850,000.

The RV park and this agricultural land are the last two privately-held parcels in the estuary. The agricultural parcel is within a special zone where a vote of the people is required in order to change the use from agriculture to a more intensive land use. Next steps include preparation of an appraisal and conceptual restoration plan.

Estimated cost:	\$850,000
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$450,000
Cost Notes:	Cost estimate is preliminary

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### Ventura River Arundo Removal Project

**Local Lead:** County of Ventura Flood Control District

Pam Lindsey, 805-654-2036, pam.lindsey@mail.co.ventura.ca.us

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Not assigned yet.

Remove Arundo donax from a 5-acre parcel adjacent to the Ventura River and revegetate with native riparian species. The project will serve as a demonstration project to evaluate Arundo removal methods and six different riparian revegetation treatments. Three replicates of the revegetation treatments will be done to ensure statistically reliable results. The Ventura County Flood Control District will serve as lead agency for the project on behalf of the Ventura County Arundo Task Force.

The Demonstration Project is located along the east bank of the Ventura River in Casitas Springs. The Ventura County Flood Control District and the City of Ventura own the project site. This portion of the Ventura River supports patches of mule fat scrub and willow-dominated riparian scrub within the broad river bottom. Upper floodplain terraces outside of the riverbanks support alluvial scrub vegetation accented by large sycamore and eucalyptus trees. The river substrate is primarily cobble and sand.

Estimated cost:	\$355,700
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$159,500
Dept. of Fish and Game	\$63,500
Natural Resource Conservation Service	\$69,200
County of Ventura Flood Control District	\$63,500

## **Carpinteria Salt Marsh, Basin 1, Final Design**

**Local Lead:** Terraserve Environmental Consulting  
Kate Symonds, 805-564-1831, kate@terraserve.net

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Janet Diehl, 510-286-1015, jdiehl@scc.ca.gov

Augment the final design and engineering plans for the Carpinteria Salt Marsh, Basin 1 Enhancement to include a public access component. The Enhancement Plan was funded by the WRP and should be completed by the end of 2001. The currently funded effort (\$100,000) will provide final design plans (bid package) for the hydrologic and habitat improvements. This project will finalize the public access component (authorized and unauthorized access -- anticipated to be a simple design), obtain the permits, and then implement the plan.

The project planning area within Carpinteria Salt Marsh encompasses about 39 acres and includes Basin 1 and the South Marsh. The Land Trust owns the 14-acre South Marsh property and 17 of the 25 acres of Basin 1. The remaining eight acres in Basin 1 are owned by the U.C. Natural Reserve System (about five acres) and the County Flood Control District (about three acres). The recently restored Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park is located east of the project area.

The Santa Barbara County Flood Control District is proposing to conduct flood control activities in Carpinteria Salt Marsh and is also evaluating habitat restoration opportunities in the marsh. This has provided an opportunity to coordinate with the District in planning marsh enhancements with respect to Basin 1 and the South Marsh. The proposed marsh enhancements and public access improvements will be compatible with Flood Control maintenance activities as well as the concerns of adjacent residents.

Estimated cost:	\$50,000
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Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$50,000

Cost Notes:	Cost estimate is very preliminary. The land trust would also provide funding for this phase.
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## Summerland/Greenwell Preserve Restoration

**Local Lead:** Summerland Greenwell Preserve  
David Hill, 805-565-3573, hill@carp.SBCEO.k12.ca.us

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Mary Travis, 510-286-1015, mtravis@scc.ca.gov

Restore 2-acres of riparian habitat at the Summerland/Greenwell Preserve. The preserve sits at the confluence of three small drainages that are relatively undeveloped. It is located about one-half-mile from the ocean, in the coastal zone. The project site contains a spring-fed perennial creek. A restoration plan has been prepared for the site. Restoration activities will include planting native trees, installing irrigation, and stabilizing the hillside. There are also two historic buildings located on the preserve. Property is owned by the County of Santa Barbara, and leased to the Summerland Citizens Association.

Work done to date includes preparation of landscape plan, demolition of a large industrial garage, removal of asphalt, restoration of natural topography around pond, and removal of non-native vegetation. All of the work was completed with volunteer labor.

Estimated cost:	\$220,000
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**Funding:**

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$40,000
Santa Barbara County-CREF	\$20,000
Summerland/Greenwell Preserve	\$100,000

**Cost Notes:** Approximately \$120,000 has already been spent (from County and Summerland Citizens Assoc.). Of the remaining work, approximately \$38,500 is needed to complete the riparian restoration.

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## Goleta Slough Tidal Restoration Study

**Local Lead:** Santa Barbara Municipal Airport

John Ledbetter, 805-692-6023, jledbetter@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Trish Chapman, 510-286-1015, tchapman@scc.ca.gov

The objective of the Goleta Slough Tidal Restoration Study is to obtain experimental data that can adequately address the FAA's concerns and resolve the bird-strike issue at Goleta Slough (see below). This will be achieved by introducing tidal action to one or more of the airport's basins in Goleta Slough and monitoring the results for two to three years, with monitoring focused primarily on bird use. Control basins will also be monitored. Participating agencies will develop the study plan, including specific restoration actions, monitoring protocols, study duration, and the methodology for assessing the bird-strike hazard. A key element of the study, required by the FAA, will be that if at any time the monitoring data indicates that tidal circulation has caused an increase in the bird-strike hazard, the study will be halted and the basin(s) will be returned to former conditions (i.e., non-tidal).

The FAA has expressed concern that restoration of tidal action to basins that are now seasonally ponded would increase the bird strike hazard at Santa Barbara Airport. Preliminary studies predict that although restoring tidal action might increase annual bird use in the basins, it would not increase, and might even decrease the bird strike hazard. This conclusion is based on the fact that in general shorebirds using tidal wetlands are smaller and lower-flying than the waterfowl which currently use the seasonal ponds. The FAA is opposed to implementing any tidal restoration projects at the slough until this theory has been empirically shown to be correct.

Estimated cost:	\$400,000
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**Funding:**

SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$200,000
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County of Santa Barbara	\$200,000
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**Cost Notes:** Study design, environmental review, and permitting will cost \$150K.  
Cost estimates are very preliminary.

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## Ellwood Beach-Santa Barbara Shores Specific Plan

**Local Lead:** County of Santa Barbara  
David Ward, 805-568-2072, dward@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Not assigned yet.

Complete amendments to the Ellwood Beach-Santa Barbara Shores Specific Plan for County and privately owned land. The project includes a park master plan to protect resources on the County's property. It will also evaluate the potential for transfer of development rights from the privately-owned property, which supports higher value natural areas, to the County-owned parcel. The proposed project includes implementation of a restoration project on the County owned property. Estimated cost of the restoration project is \$50,000.

Ellwood Mesa comprises a major portion of the Devereux Creek watershed approximately ¼ mile upstream of Devereux Slough, and supports a diverse ecosystem of vernal pools, riparian habitat, native grasslands, and one of the three largest Monarch butterfly over-wintering sites west of the Rockies.

Estimated cost:	\$349,000
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$160,000
California Resources Agency	\$75,000
Coastal Commission	\$24,000
County of Santa Barbara	\$90,000

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## Arroyo Hondo Watershed Acquisition

**Local Lead:** Attorney At Law  
David H Anderson, ,

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Janet Diehl, 510-286-1015, jdiehl@scc.ca.gov

Acquire 778 acres of riparian and grassland habitat along the Arroyo Hondo on the Gaviota Coast. Property extends from the coast up to the Los Padres National Forest. An appraisal has been prepared for the site. The Coastal Conservancy is working with the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County to pursue acquisition.

Estimated cost:	\$6,176,000
Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$1,000,000
Coastal Conservancy	\$3,000,000
Santa Barbara County	\$350,000
Land Trust of Santa Barbara County	\$1,826,000

**Cost Notes:** Appraisal price is confidential. The Conservancy has some funds available that are specifically targeted to the Gaviota Coast.

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## WRP Technical Assistance

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Trish Chapman, 510-286-1015, tchapman@scc.ca.gov

Provide technical assistance to WRP Governing Board, Managers Group, and Science Advisory Panel to further the goals of the Recovery Project. Potential uses of technical assistance funds include:

- \*Subregional planning documents
  - identify project opportunities in a subregion
  - assist in setting subregional acquisition and restoration priorities
  - develop comprehensive exotics species control programs (e.g., Arundo, caulerpa, etc.).
- \*Pre-project evaluations, including resource surveys, appraisals, Phase I hazmat analyses, etc.
- \*Feasibility studies for issues that extend beyond a single project.
- \*Science Panel staff support and investigations of specific technical issues.
- \*Symposium planning and organization.
- \*Preparation of the WRP Regional Plan.
- \*Other technical assistance needs that arise.

Funds will be used on an as-needed basis with the approval of the Wetlands Managers Group.

Estimated cost:	\$400,000
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Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$400,000

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## WRP Small Grants Program

**Local Lead:** Environment Now

Terry Tamminen, 310-829-5568, tt@environmentnow.org

**Conservancy Project Manager:** Trish Chapman, 510-286-1015, tchapman@scc.ca.gov

Provide grants up to \$30,000 for restoration and enhancement projects consistent with the goals of the Wetlands Recovery Project. The small grants program gives priority to projects with a significant education or community involvement element. The grant selection committee includes a representative from each of the county task forces. Selected projects include:

- \* Refugio Creek Arundo Removal Project
- \* Santa Barbara HGM Restoration Plan Design
- \* Goleta Slough Borgaro Parcel Transaction
- \* Santa Barbara Native Plant Nursery
- \* Ventura River Watershed Monitoring Project
- \* Sespe Creek Interpretive Program
- \* Nicholas Canyon Creek Stream Restoration
- \* San Joaquin Marsh Interpretive Docks
- \* Cottonwood Creek Enhancement
- \* Lopez Canyon Streambed Restoration

Estimated cost:	\$250,000
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Funding:	
SCC-Wetlands Recovery Project	\$250,000

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